

Message Text

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USLO PEKING

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CDR USACC TAIWAN

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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TAGS: PINT PFOR CH

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA NO. 11

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SUMMARY: IN THE CAMPAIGN THIS WEEK, THE EMPHASIS HAS BEEN ON "NARROWING" THE DEBATE, PRESUMABLY TO CONCENTRATE ON TENG HSIAO-PING, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN HINTS THAT TENG IS STILL REDEEMABLE. PROVINCIAL LEADERS CONTINUE TO REMAIN IN THE BACKGROUND, AND THERE ARE CLEAR CALLS FOR THE CAMPAIGN NOT TO INTERFERE WITH INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION. BOTH WU TEH AND CHEN YUNG-KUEI APPEARED PUBLICLY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE CHOU'S FUNERAL. KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN, THE LAOTIAN PRIME MINISTER AND PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL, ARRIVED IN PEKING MARCH 15 AS THE FIRST HEAD OF STATE TO VISIT SINCE LAST DECEMBER, AND PRC FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER LI CHIANG HAS RETURNED FROM A SEVEN-DAY VISIT TO CAMBODIA. THE PRC MEDIA HAS JUMPED WITH GLEE ON EGYPT'S TERMINATION OF THE EGYPTIAN-SOVIET TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. END SUMMARY

1. THE CAMPAIGN ON TENG, PRODUCTION AND CULTURE

TENG HSIAO-PING'S DOWNWARD SLIDE TOWARD POLITICAL OBLIVION
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SEEMS TO BE SLOWING AS MEDIA RESPONSE TO THE MARCH 10 EDITORIAL GUIDELINES (WR 10) EMPHASIZES THE CALL FOR "NARROWING" THE DEBATE. THIS IMPRESSION WAS REAFFIRMED WHEN NCNA ENGLISH BEGAN EXPLAINING THE CAMPAIGN FOR FOREIGNERS AND STRONGLY HINTED THAT TENG WAS REDEEMABLE (MARCH 15). IN ADDITION, ACTING PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG, AT A WELCOMING BANQUET FOR THE LAOTIAN PREMIER (PARA 8), AGAIN DESCRIBED THE CAMPAIGN AS A "REVOLUTIONARY MASS DEBATE," A FAR CRY FROM THE "LIFE-AND-

DEATH STRUGGLE" CHARACTERIZATION IN SOME OF THE MORE FIERY, BUT LESS AUTHORITATIVE MEDIA PIECES. IN THE PROVINCES, THESMES FROM THE EDITORIAL WERE REPLAYED, BUT PROVINCIAL LEADERS CONTINUED TO REMAIN IN THE BACKGROUND. HOPEH FIRST SECRETARY LIU TZU-HOU BECAME ONLY THE SECOND PROVINCIAL BOSS TO ASSOCIATE HIMSELF WITH CRITICISM OF "THAT CAPITALIST-ROADER" (MARCH 12 BROADCAST). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

2. THE MARCH 10 EDITORIAL ALSO CALLED FOR A "STILL BETTER JOB" IN PRODUCTION, AND THE MEDIA INDICATED THE CAMPAIGN WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT. ONE STEEL MILL, ACCORDING TO NCNA, HAD MADE "PROPER ARRANGEMENTS FOR WORKERS TO ATTEND STUDY COURSES BY TURNS WHILE INSURING NORMAL PRODUCTION," WHILE ANOTHER HELD CRITICISM MEETINGS BEFORE WORK SHIFTS (HONG KONG 2917). A MARCH 14 SHENSI BROADCAST TOLD OF THE SIAN RAILWAY BUREAU WORKERS WHO HAVE "PERSISTED IN MAKING REVOLUTION IN THEIR SPARE TIME." MEANWHILE, NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL MEDIA CONTINUED TO FLAIL AWAY AT CAPITALIST-ROADERS FOR THEIR CRITICISM OF REVOLUTIONARY OPERA AND PLAYS (WR 10). POEMS FROM CHIANG CHING' HSIAOCHINCHUANG BRIGADE FILLED MOST OF PAGE FOUR ON THE MARCH 14 KWANGMING DAILY, AND VARIOUS PROVINCES REPORTED THAT, CONTRARY TO THE SLANDERS OF THE CAPITALIST-ROADERS, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HAD ATTENDED REVOLUTIONARY OPERA PERFORMANCES. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

3. YOUTH AND THE CAMPAIGN

IN BY FAR THE BIGGEST CRITICISM MEETING ANNOUNCED SO FAR IN THE CAMPAIGN, 70,000 YOUTHS SPREAD OUT AT 64 SITES ATTENDED A SHANTUNG COMMUNIST YOUTH LEAGUE RALLY MARCH 13 AND VOWED TO DEVELOP THE RED GUARD SPIRIT OF "IT IS RIGHT TO REBEL AGAINST REACTIONARIES." OTHER YOUTH GROUPS HAVE ALSO BEEN INVOLVED IN THE CAMPAIGN, ALTHOUGH ON A MUCH SMALLER SCALE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND HAVE OCCASIONALLY MADE REFERENCE TO THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION-ERA RED GUARDS. THE MOST NOTABLE ASPECT OF YOUTH INVOLVEMENT SO FAR, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN THE PROMINENT ATTENTION GIVEN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES WHO ARE SETTLING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. SCARCELY A WEEK GOES BY WITHOUT PEOPLE'S DAILY'S FRONTPAGING A LETTER TO CHAIRMAN MAO FROM A NEW GROUP OF COMMUNE-BOUND GRADUATES PLEDGING TO SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN BY BECOMING REVOLUTIONARY FARMERS. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESCAPE THE CONCLUSION THAT RUSTIFICATION OF THESE "REVOLUTIONARIES" IS AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO KEEP THE CAMPAIGN PEACEFUL AND UNDER CENTRALIZED PARTY CONTROL. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

4. LEADERSHIP APPEARANCES

THIS WEEK SAW THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF HUA KUO-FENG SINCE

THE NIXON VISIT, AS HE TOOK ON HOSTING DUTIES FOR THE LAOTIAN PARTY AND GOVERNMENT DELEGATION. IN ADDITION TO THE ACTING PREMIER, PLITBUREO MEMBERS YAO WEN-YUAN AND WU TEH ALSO APPEARED AT MAJOR LAO VISIT FUNCTIONS, WHILE CHU TEH ALSO HELD A BRIEF WELCOMING MEETING. THE APPEARANCE OF WU TEH WAS HIS FIRST SINCE THE CHOU FUNERAL, ALSO PROMINENT DURING THE WEEK WAS MODEL PEASANT CHEN YUNG-KUEI, WHO MET WITH A VISITING ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION AND WITH THE DEPARTING AMBASSADOR OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO. LIKE WU TEH, THIS WAS CHEN'S FIRST RETURN TO PUBLIC VIEW SINCE CHOU'S FUNERAL.

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5. REHABILITATIONS CONTINUE

DESPITE THE HEAVY CRITICISM OF TENG FOR HIS POLICY OF BRINGING BACK OLD CADRES, REHABILITEES CONTINUE TO BE IDENTIFIED IN MIDDLE-LEVEL JOBS. LAST WEEK WANG LIN, A FORMER SHENSI PARTY SECRETARY, APPEARED FOR THE FIRST TIME AS FIRST SECRETARY OF THE SIAN MUNICIPAL PARTY. WANG, WHO WAS CRITICIZED IN THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND THEN DISAPPEARED, REPLACED SUN CHANG-HSING IN SIAN SOMETIME IN THE LAST FOUR MONTHS. MEANWHILE, CHANG PAI-FA, A PRE-CULTURAL REVOLUTION MODEL WORKER, WAS IDENTIFIED BY NCNA MARCH 11 AS A VICE MINISTER OF CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION. CHANG, WHO REMAINED INACTIVE FROM 1964 TO 1974, WAS APPARENTLY APPOINTED TO HIS POSITION SHORTLY BEFORE THE CHOU EN-LAI FUNERAL, WHEN HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPEARED WITH OTHER VICE MINISTERS. ANOTHER RECENT REAPPEARANCE IS THAT OF HSU MING-TE, A REAR ADMIRAL IN THE EARLY 1960'S WHO DROPPED FROM PUBLIC MENTION FOR 11 YEARS ONLY TO REEMERGE AS A NAVY DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF (NCNA, MARCH 16). UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION EA-09

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AMEMBASSY SEOUL
FBIS OKINAWA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMIPAC
CHMAAGCHINA
COMUSTDC
CDR USACC TAIWAN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
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6. THE UNITED STATES

LIMITED COVERAGE WAS GIVEN BY THE PRC MEDIA DURING THE WEEK TO THE US. THE MARCH 9 AND 14 NEVADA NUCLEAR UNDERGROUND TESTS WERE REPORTED AS BEING "IN COMPETITION WITH THE SOVIET UNION" AND, IN REPLAYS FROM THE FOREIGN PRESS, THE SUPERPOWERS WERE GIVEN ROUGHLY EQUAL CONDEMNATION FOR ACTIVITIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND ON CYPRUS. NCNA ALSO REPORTED CHARGES FROM THE NATIONAL ENQUIRER OF 23 SOVIET SPIES IN THE US AND SEIZURE

OF A SOVIET TRAWLER BY THE US COAST GUARD (NCNA, MARCH 10-15). UNCLASSIFIED

7. EGYPT, THE USSR, AND THE US

EARLY IN THE WEEK, NCNA REPORTED IN FAVORABLE TERMS TREASURY SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT TO EGYPT AND WASHINGTON REPORTS ON THE USG DECISION TO SELL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE EGYPTIANS. THE PRESIDENT WAS QUOTED AS INDICATING THAT THE DECISION WAS MADE ON THE BASIS OF THE CESSATION OF EGYPTIAN ARMS PURCHASES FROM THE SOVIETS. LATER IN THE WEEK, THE PRC MEDIA CONCENTRATED ON (NCNA ARRIED SEVEN ARTICLES MARCH 16) EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT'S DECISION TO TERMINATE THE EGYPTIAN-SOVIET TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. PRC MEDIA ATTENTION TO THE EGYPTIAN DEBT PROBLEM IS LONG STANDING AND, IN A MARCH 11 NCNA CORRESPONDENT ARTICLE, THE SOVIETS WERE CONDEMNED FOR THEIR "SHYLOCK PRACTICE" IN DEMANDING REPAYMENT OF THE DEBTS. NCNA PROVIDED LIBERAL COVERAGE OF SADAT'S ASSEMBLY SPEECH URGING TERMINATION OF THE TREATY, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S REPORT ON DETERIORATING EGYPTIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS, THE ASSEMBLY'S APPROVAL OF TERMINATION, AND EGYPTIAN AND KUWAITI PRESS SUPPORT FOR THE ACTION. IN TWO CORRESPONDENT ARTICLES, NCNA REPLAYED THE HISTORY OF EGYPTIAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP (REFUSAL TO SUPPLY ARMS WHEN NEEDED IN OCTOBER, 1973, REFUSAL TO SUPPLY SPARE PARTS, EXPULSION OF SOVIET MILITARY ADVISERS, AND CONTINUED SOVIET PRESSURE ON THE DEBT ISSUE) AND CLAIMED THAT TERMINATION OF THE TREATY "SIGNIFIES THE BANKRUPTCH OF SOVIET HEGEMONISM IN EGYPT." THE TASS REACTION TO THE TERMINA-
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TION WAS CONSIDERED BY NCNA TO BE "BLACKMAIL" AND NCNA CONCLUDED THAT THE SOVIET REACTION WILL PROVIDE EVERYONE "ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO SEE CLEARLY THE TRUE FEATURES OF THE NEW TSARS." (NCNA, MARCH 10-16) UNCLASSIFIED

8. LAOS

THE LAOTIAN GOVERNMENT AND PARTY DELEGATION, HEADED BY PRIME MINISTER AND SECRETARY-GENERAL KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN, ARRIVED MARCH 15 WITH THE USUAL POMP AND CEREMONY AS THE FIRST HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISIT TO PEKING SINCE LAST DECEMBER. ACTING PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG WAS HOST, BACKED UP BY TWO FELLOW POLITBURO MEMBERS, YAO WEN-YUAN AND WU TEH, WITH YAO TAKING UP HOSTING DUTIES FOR A VISIT TO A TACHAI EXHIBIT AND THE USUAL SOIREE. FROM THE COMPOSITION OF THE LAOTIAN DELEGATION AND INCLUSION IN THE CEREMONIES OF PRC COUNTERPARTS INVOLVED IN TRADE, MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, IT APPEARS THAT THESE TOPICS ARE HIGH ON THE AGENDA. IN HIS BANQUET TOAST, HUA INCLUDED A BARB AGAINST "THE SUPERPOWER THAT HAWKS DETENTE" BUT THE SPEECHES WERE PRIMARILY DEVOTED TO SINO-LAOTIAN FRIENDSHIP AND PRAISES FOR EACH OTHER'S TREMENDOUS

ACHIEVEMENTS. THIS THE FIRST HIGH-LEVEL LAOTIAN DELEGATION TO CHINA SINCE JULY, 1972 (KAYSONE WAS LAST IN PEKING IN EARLY 1971) AND FOLLOWS KAYSONE'S VISITS TO BOTH HANOI AND MOSCOW (SEE HONG KONG 2961) (NCNA, MARCH 14-16). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

9. CAMBODIA

FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER LI CHIANG RETURNED TO PEKING MARCH 12 AFTER A SEVEN-DAY VISIT TO PHNOM PENH DURING WHICH HE SIGNED AN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT. LI IS THE HIGHEST RANKING PRC OFFICIAL TO HAVE VISITED PHNOM PENH SINCE SPRING, 1975, AND HIS VISIT AGAIN DEMONSTRATED THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH THE PRC HAS BEEN NURTURING WITH THEIR CAMBODIAN FRIENDS (SEE ALSO WR 10). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

10. AFRICA

AN AUTHORITATIVE PEOPLE'S DAILY "COMMENTATOR" ARTICLE (MARCH 13) CONDEMNED RHODESIAN "RACISTS" ATTACKS ON MOZAMBIQUE, EXPRESSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT FOR THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST AGGRESSION AND TERMED THE ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE A "JUST CAUSE" WHICH IT IS "ONLY NATURAL THAT AFRICAN COUNTRIES ACTIVELY SUPPORT." COMING SOME TEN DAYS AFTER THE ALLEGED INCIDENTS, COMMENTATOR'S ALLEGATIONS OF THE NEW SOVIET SCHEMES IN THE MAKING AND PREDICTION OF A "TORTUOUS ROAD" TO FINAL VICTORY FOR MOZAMBICANS, ZIMBABWEANS AND THE WHOLE OF AFRICA, SUGGEST THAT PEKING IS RELUCTANT TO BECOME MORE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN AFRICAN STRUGGLES. NCNA HAS ALSO CARRIED AFRICAN CRITICISM OF THE RHODESIAN "RACISTS" AND HAS SLIGHTLY INCREASED ITS REPLAYS OF COMMENTS ON ANGOLAN AFFAIRS. UNCLASSIFIED

11. MEANWHILE, ETHIOPIA'S OFFICIAL GOODWILL DELEGATION PAID A VISIT TO CHINA'S "PACE-SETTING" TACHAI PRODUCTION BRIGADE, VISITED PEKING ARMY UNITS, AND WAS RECEIVED BY VICE PREMIER CHEN YUNG-KUEI BEFORE WINDING UP ITS VISIT TO CHINA (NCNA, MARCH 10-17). UNCLASSIFIED

12. KOREA

NCNA HAS CARRIED THE TEXT OF THE NPC STANDING COMMITTEE MARCH 13 LETTER OF REPLY TO A MARCH 4 LETTER FROM THE DPRK SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY (SPA), WHICH WAS ADDRESSED TO WORLD GOVERNMENTS AND PARLIAMENTS. IN FAMILIAR TERMS, IT CONVEYED THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE'S SUPPORT FOR AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE CONTENTS OF THE SPA LETTER CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF US ARMED FORCES FROM SOUTH KOREA AND KOREA'S INDEPENDENT AND PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION. PRC MEDIA HAS ALSO

REPORTED RODONG SINMUN'S REJOINDER TO SOUTH KOREAN ATTACKS
ON THE SPA LETTER AS WELL AS NORTH KOREAN COMMENTS ON THE
ROK'S MOVES AGAINST STUDENTS AND RELIGIOUS FIGURES (NCNA,
MARCH 13-15). UNCLASSIFIED

13. HONG KONG'S STUDENTS AND MOSCOW'S IUS

BASING THEIR CASE ON THE VISIT TO HONG KONG (WHILE ON AN
ASIAN TOUR) OF LABEED ABBAWY, THE IRAQI VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE
PRAGUE-BASED INTERNATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS (IUS), LOCAL
PRC-OWNED NEWSPAPERS HAVE RECENTLY CONDEMNED MOSCOW'S
EFFORTS TO INFILTRATE HONG KONG STUDENT GROUPS. ABBAWY
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INVITED THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF STUDENTS TO JOIN THE IUS
BUT WAS REBUFFED. BOTH MAJOR COMMUNIST PAPERS POINTED OUT
THAT WHEN THE IUS CAME UNDER SOVIET DOMINATION IN THE 1960'S,
CHINA CEASED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO ITS MEETINGS AND
CITED VARIOUS EXAMPLES OF THE IUS'S PRO-SOVIET COLORATION.
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14. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

AS THE NEW YORK SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE GETS
UNDER WAY, PRC MEDIA HAVE FEATURED A REPORT ON THE TOPICS
UNDER DISCUSSION AS WELL AS PRC DELEGATE LAI YA-LI'S MARCH
15 ASSERTION THAT THE "SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT" HAS NO BINDING
FORCE AND HIS CALL FOR FULL PARTICIPATION BY ALL COUNTRIES
ON AN EXTENSIVE AND EQUITABLE BASIS. ON OTHER UN MATTERS,
NCNA NOTED STATEMENTS BY VARIOUS REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING
PRC DELEGATE HO LI-LIANG, IN SUPPORT OF UN CHARTER REVIEW.
PEKING HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THE DEPARTURE FOR NAIROBI OF CHU
KE-PING AS CHINA'S FIRST PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM.

15. FOLLOWING FINA'S TWO-YEAR SUSPENSION FOR PARTICIPANTS
IN PEKING'S INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING MEET LAST AUGUST, NCNA
HAS CARRIED THE STATEMENT BY A MEMBER OF CHINA'S SWIMMING
ASSOCIATION WHICH TERMED THE FINA ACTION A "HOSTILE ACT
TOWARD THE CHINESE PEOPLE AND SPORTSMEN." (NCNA, MARCH 10-
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